

Size variation seems much less than in *C. laevioctostriatus*. Colour, too, varies but little, the only common departure from the norm being a violaceous tint in 20-30% of the specimens — the fore parts, however, always remaining blue. The most deviant example is more distinctly bicolorous, with elytra presenting in most lights, especially when viewed from a little behind, a purplish-bronzy hue not unlike that of (e.g.) *Rhynchites cupreus* L. or some individuals of *Apion limonii* Kirby, but darker. A second specimen shows a near approach to this coloration.

Previous records in this district are Greenwich (Fowler, 1891, *Col. Brit. Isl.*, 5: 25, and one in the park by J. Burton, 1952); Woolwich (Bedwell, in Fowler & Donisthorpe, 1913, *ibid.*, 6: 296); Abbey Wood and Charlton (taken by my friend A. W. Gould, and in the former place by me also, very sparingly in rotten stumps in Lesnes Woods). I first came across the species at the end of June 1933 in some small numbers crawling on a beech log in Arundel Park at dusk. It is sometimes found in decaying field-posts or palings in open situations near the sea; I have met with it in these conditions in the Thames Estuary area and near Rye Harbour.

The British distribution of *H. caeruleus* — from Plymouth and both sides of the Bristol Channel in the west and along the south-coastal belt up to Norfolk in the east — is clearly governed by proximity to the coast and, more especially, to the estuaries and tidal reaches of the larger rivers<sup>1</sup>. The latter circumstance accounts for the inland localities; thus, it extends up the Thames as far as London (where it seems to have been almost general on the south side, cf. Fowler *l.c.*) but not beyond. There appears to be no record for a wholly inland county apart from London itself, Middlesex (Chiswick), and Surrey (Barnes); the last two localities are, of course, on the Thames and form part of the metropolitan cluster of records. As a northern outlier of these, Epping Forest alone does not quite fit into the above pattern. The insect seems rare there or else extremely local, and is not among the beetles of the Forest listed by Buck (1955), though there is an old record (Fowler, *l.c.*) and a recent one, I believe unpublished. I never encountered the species during the nine years when I was collecting in the adjacent Lea Valley area.

<sup>1</sup> Another wood-feeding Heteromeron with a similar type of distribution, but ranging more widely, is *Nacerdes melanus* L. (Oedemeridae).

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DAY-FLYING LEPIDOPTERA AT MERCURY VAPOUR LIGHT. — During the past few years I have taken single specimens of *Thamnosphexia culciformis* L. and *Choreutis myllerana* Fab. in my m.v. trap at Southsea. It is interesting to speculate whether day-flying species other than migrants really do fly at night sometimes; or whether in early morning sunshine they may be attracted to a mercury-vapour light which had not yet been switched off. — Dr. J. R. LANGMAID, 38, Cumberland Court, Festing Road, Southsea, Hants.